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country only at the time and place of meeting of the A. A. A. S., to say nothing of the other very great advantages of meeting in connection with that prominent organization.

### NOTES.

THE Boston Daily Advertiser, in a recent criticism on the "Statement of the Theory of Education in the United States of America," a pamphlet issued by the Bureau of Education in Washington, offers the following forcible remarks, which illustrate very fairly how favorably the educational ideas of our best scientific men are received by the intelligent part of the community :

"Another point hinted at by the pamphlet is the excessive regard paid to the text-book. The general system of instruction lays special emphasis on the use of text-books, and the prevalent tendency is toward giving the pupil an initiation into the method of using the printed page in the form of books and periodicals for the purpose of obtaining information from the recorded experience of his fellow-men, but in many schools and systems of schools, equal or greater stress is laid upon the practical method of conducting investigations for the purpose of verification and of original discovery. We presume that the last clause, though rather obscure, points at object lessons, field study and the use of the laboratory, but the words employed elsewhere, "the prevailing custom in American schools is to place a book in the hands of the child when he first enters school, and to begin his instruction with teaching him how to read," sufficiently express the fundamental notion of practical education as it prevails in America. The omission, on the one hand, of a public Kindergarten as initiatory, and the close succession of text-books in every department of study, expose one evil in our system which is not likely to be eradicated by any formal enactment or introduction of new systems, but only by the gradual emancipation of the human mind from its present subjection to the printing-press. The extent to which the present system is carried is appalling when we consider it fairly. The teacher is in danger of being buried under the accumulation of text-books ; not only the whole field of experimental science is still largely in bondage to the printed page, but the whole field of scientific observation is in danger of being cultivated through the medium of text-books which do not tend to lead the young student to nature, but offer themselves as a substitute for nature. We look indeed to natural science and natural history as the appointed means for freeing the human mind in this direction. The teacher who learns to instruct his classes by direct observation of nature will begin to apply the same principle in other departments of study. English literature, for example, will be taught less by

means of text-books about the subject than by direct contact with literature itself."

THE Bulletin of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, F. V. Hayden in charge (No. 4, second series, June 10, 1875), contains "Notes on the Surface Features of the Colorado or Front Range of the Rocky Mts.;" by F. V. Hayden, illustrated with fine panoramic views of the Colorado Mountains. "The Tertiary Physopoda of Colorado," by S. H. Scudder, and "Outlines of a Natural Arrangement of the Falconidæ," by Robert Ridgway, with numerous outline cuts. We have also received a "Preliminary Map of Central Colorado, showing the region surveyed in 1873-4," by Hayden's Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories.

THE "Annual Record of Science and Industry for 1874," edited by Spencer F. Baird, with the assistance of eminent men of science, has recently been published by Harper & Brothers. It is a large 12mo of 665 pages. This annual has met with the approval of scientific as well as general students, and is the most reliable and convenient book of the sort published in the language. Several new features have been introduced, which make the present volume still more useful than its predecessors.

IN an article in the "American Journal of Science," for May, "On Dr. Koch's Evidence with regard to the Contemporaneity of Man and the Mastodon in Missouri," Professor Dana, on a review of the evidence, thinks there is sufficient reason for regarding *Dr. Koch's* evidence *very doubtful*, but that future discoveries will establish man's contemporaneity with the mastodon, for he existed in Europe long before the extinction of the American mastodon.

SACHS' elaborate and comprehensive "Text-book of Botany, Morphological and Physiological, has been translated and annotated by Alfred W. Bennett, assisted by W. T. Thiselton Dyer, both excellent authorities. The work is published in sumptuous style by Messrs. Macmillan. Price \$12.50. Received from A. A. Smith & Co., Salem. For sale by Lee & Shepard, Boston.

A VALUABLE, illustrated article on the Potato rot, by Professor W. G. Farlow, appears in the "Bulletin of the Bussey Institution," Part iv.